

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 091822

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/ EGY: MSTERNER

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FOL TEL SENT SECSTATE, DIA WASHDC, ABU DHABI, INFO ALGIERS,
AMMAN, JERUSALEM, JIDDA, KUWAIT, LONDON, KHARTOUM, MOSCOW,
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USCINCEUR, BAGHDAD UNN, DHAHRAN FROM BEIRUT MAY 11 TH:

QUOTE: BEIRUT 5380

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJ: LOCAL COMMENT ON SITUATION IN LEBANON

1. ALTHOUGH LOCAL PRESS COMMENT ON SITUATION IN LEBANON
HAS BEEN TIGHTLY CONTROLLED BY ARMY CENSORSHIP, INDEPEN-
DENT WEEKLY AL HAWADITH MAY 10 CARRIED ARTICLE BY OWNER-
EDITOR SELIM LAWZI WHICH IN OUR VIEW PROVIDES EXCELLENT
AND ACCURATE REFLECTION OF POLITICAL LINE THAT PRES
FRANGIE HAS TAKEN AND IS CONTINUING TAKE IN CONNECTION
WITH GOL- FEDAYEEN CONFRONTATION. FACT THAT ARTICLE WAS
PASSED BY CENSOR IN ITS ENTIRETY ALMOST CERTAINLY MEANS
IT HAD HIGH- LEVEL GOL INPUT AND APPROVAL. FOLLOWING IS
SUMMARY OF ARTICLE FOR DEPT' S INFO, BUT ADDRESSEE POSTS IN
COUNTRIES WHERE HAWADITH IS CIRCULATED SHOULD PERUSE ARTICLE IN
FULL WHEN IT APPEARS, SINCE THEY MAY WISH CALL IT TO
ATTENTION OF HOST GOVTS. (OTHER ARTICLES IN HAWADITH
ARE, HOWEVER, OT RPT NOT TO BE COMMENDED SINCE THEY
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PAGE 02 STATE 091822

ALLEGE US INVOLVEMENT IN ANTI- FEDAYEEN ACTIVITIES HERE.)

2. BEGIN SUMMARY: PRES FRANGIE IS EXPLAINING TO MEDIATING ARAB ENVOYS THAT PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON ARE TREATED BETTER THAN IN OTHER ARAB STATES. HE TOLD KUWAITI AMBASSADOR: " DOES GOK EXEMPT PALESTINIANS RESIDING IN KUWAIT FROM KUWAITI LAWS OR TREAT THEM AS ABOVE LAW?" HE TOLD IRAQ' S SAMARRA' I; " AFTER READING REGULATIONS RE PALESTINIANS IN IRAQ, I FIND WE ACCORD THEM FAR MORE THAN YOU DO. IN LEBANON, PALESTINIANS TAKE PART IN ATTACKS ON STATE AND CALLS FOR OVERTHROW OF GOVT. MOREOVER, THEY CIRCULATE WITH ARMS, CONTROL CAMPS, AND PROTECT OUTLAWS WHO HIDE THERE. IN IRAQ, PALESTINIANS CANNOT EVEN DEMONSTRATE IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE WITHOUT OBTAINING OFFICIAL PERMISSION." TO FAR DELEGATION AND EGYPT' S KHOLI, HE SAID: " PROBLEM WE ARE TRYING RESOLVE WITH PALESTINIAN BRETHREN IS THAT OF DUAL SOVEREIGNTY."

THROUGHOUT MEDIATION EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN BY LEBANESE AND ARAB LEADERS, FRANGIE HAS FOCUSSED ON QUESTION OF CONTROL OF CAMPS. HE STRESSES " WE DO NOT SEEK COMMANDO EVACUATION OF CAMPS BUT THEIR DEMILITARIZATION, ESPECIALLY THOSE NEAR CITIES." FEDAYEEN TELL MEDIATORS THAT DIS-ARMING CAMPS IS TANTAMOUNT TO LIQUIDATION OF THEIR MOVEMENT. WHEN SOCIALIST LEADER JUMBLATT TOLD PRES THAT PALESTINIANS ADHERE FIRMLY TO CAIRO AGREEMENT, FRANGIE REPLIED, " CAIRO AGREEMENT IS NO LONGER VALID. IT WAS CONCLUDED WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF ARAB STRATEGY KNOWN AS ' WAR OF ATTRITUION." BUT ARABSHAVE ABANDONED THIS STRATEGY AFTER IT PROVED MORE HARMFUL THAN USEFUL I DO NOT WISH REVISE AGREEMENT BY FORCE BUT BY DIALOGUE AND UNDERSTANDING, AND I HOPE FEDAYEEN WILL ADOPT THIS ATTITUDE AS WELL."

FEDAYEEN HAVE TOLD ARAB MEDIATORS THAT ISSUE OF LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY IS NEVER RAISED WHEN ISRAEL VIOLATES IT. " WE HAVE ALREADY MADE ENOUGH CONCESSIONS, WITHDRAWING FROM BORDER AREAS, SUSPENDING OPERATIONS FROM LEBANON AND EVEN CLOSING OUR INFORMATION OFFICES HERE. BUT ISRAEL AND US HAVE FORCED GOL TO CONCLUDE THERE NO SOLUTION OTHER THAN FINAL LIQUIDATION OF FEDAYEEN PRESENCE." LEBANESE SIDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 091822

REMINDS PALESTINIANS THEY ARE GUESTS, THAT LEBANON HAS OFFERED THEM MORE THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY AND WILL CONTINUE DO SO, BUT THAT THERE MUST BE DISTINCTION BETWEEN PRESENCE AS GUESTS AND PRESENCE AS " ARMY OF OCCUPATION." THIS EXPRESSION UPSET FEDAYEEN, WHOSE RADICALS RETORT: " WE HAVE SETTLED HERE FOR QUARTER CENTURY. LET THEM EITHER ACCEPT US ON OUR TERMS OR TRY EXPEL US BY FORCE."

PRES FRANGIE TELLS ALL ARAB MEDIATORS AND ENVOYS: " IF
LIBERATION OF PALESTINE IS GREAT HONOR, PLEASE DON' T LET
US MONOPOLIZE IT. WE BEG YOU SHARE IT WITH US. ON OTHER
HAND, IF IT IS RESPONSIBILITY AND BURDEN, IT IS YOUR DUTY
SHARE IT WITH US." THEIR RESPONSES SUGGEST THAT ARAB
STATES HAVE NO PLAN, MUCH LESS INTENTION, OF SHARING BURDEN
WITH LEBANON. MOST PREFER PLAY DOUBLE GAME OF SUPPORTING
FEDAYEEN ACTIVITY IN LEBANON WHILE RESTRICTING IT AT HOME,
AND SUPPORTING FEDAYEEN IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHILE EX-
PRESSING UNDERSTANDING OF GOL' S POSITION DURING PRIVATE
MEETINGS AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.
DECON 5/11/74. HOUGHTON UNQUOTE RUSH

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